

Appl. No. 10/765, 174  
Amdt. dated November 22, 2006  
Reply to Office action of August 24, 2006

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

In Figure 1 of the drawings, the reference numeral "60" has been changed to --58--. A replacement sheet is attached.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, and 4-14 are presently in the application. Claims 1, 2, 5, and 13 have been amended. Claim 3 has been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the essential allowable subject matter of claim 3, incorporating the essential language of claim 2. Claim 2 has been amended to delete the language added to claim 1. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claim 5 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 12.

The indication of the allowability of claims 2-13 is appreciated.

The amendment to claim 13 provides proper antecedent basis for “the elastomer core”. Accordingly, the objection to claim 13 has been rendered moot.

Reconsideration of the rejection under 35 USC 102 is respectfully requested.

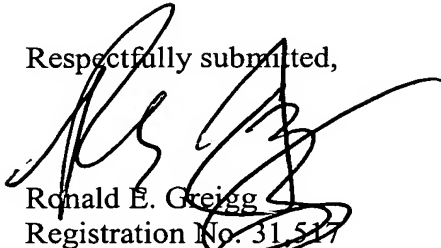
Claim 1 has been amended to include the essential language of claim 2 as well as the language of claim 3. As previously recognized in the Office action, the prior art reference, Sugimoto et al. does not disclose a throttle bore as now recited in claim 1. Furthermore, the components of this reference device are not open on one end nor inserted into one another by their open ends as recited in claim 1.

All other claims depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least for the reasons applicable to claim 1.

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Entry of the amendment and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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ANNOTATED SHEET

